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LETTER DATED 14 APRIL 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 11 April 1994 concerning events in the Gorazde region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Y. M. VORONTSOV

Annex

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 11 April 1994

According to information now available to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, on the evening of 10 April, NATO aircraft monitoring, in accordance with United Nations Security Council decisions, the no-fly zone in Bosnia and Herzegovina carried out bombing raids against Bosnian Serb artillery positions from which shells were being fired at Gorazde - where in addition to the inhabitants, there are United Nations and International Red Cross personnel. The representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations was informed that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Akashi, agreed with Mr. Boutros-Ghali that air power could be used to protect United Nations personnel in response to shelling of the safe areas, including Gorazde, as provided for in Security Council resolutions.

Violations of these resolutions are not to be tolerated. Nor should one tolerate the acts of provocation to which the Muslim side has resorted, as repeatedly documented by United Nations representatives. The Security Council called for an end to acts of provocation by either side in its statement of 6 April 1994.

Unfortunately, the Russian Federation was informed of the decision to deploy the aircraft after the fact. We look forward to a full report from the United Nations leadership on the incident.

As a spontaneous and active partner in the search for a Bosnian settlement, the Russian Federation is against any escalation of this conflict and calls for greater efforts by the world community to show all sides the road to peace.

This was discussed this morning in a telephone conversation between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Clinton. It is also a goal being pursued by Mr. Churkin, the Russian President's Special Representative, who is now visiting the region.

Certain urgent measures should be taken in the Gorazde region: a United Nations contingent should be deployed; Serbian units should be moved from their present positions; this safe area should be demilitarized, and that should include the disarming of Muslim units active in the area. As we see it, the task of the Security Council is to make an active contribution to the attainment of those goals.